

In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph on page 10, beginning on line 9, as follows:

02
At 28, a pricing application assigns costs to each of the tasks. The pricing application places costs on all materials as well as labor. For instance, for placing cable the pricing application multiplies a loaded labor rate times the standard time increment for placing cable and the multiplies times the footage on the cable to come up with the labor cost. The pricing application also adds in engineering overhead and other related cost to arrive at a final price. At 29, the prices are reviewed and are approved, with the level of approval being dictated by the total cost of a job. At 30, the pricing information is provided to a budgeting tool, such as budget control administration system (BCAS).

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 10, beginning at line 17, as follows:

03
At 31, a scheduling application looks at the available resources and assigns the tasks to the appropriate personnel. The scheduling application, for instance, knows which supervisors are available on certain dates within a certain region and can assign the tasks accordingly to the best-suited person, as shown at 32. The scheduling process employs a critical path method (CPM) to ensure that critical due dates are met. For example, if a task needs to be completed by a certain date but cannot be started until a second task is finished, then the scheduling application will ensure that the second application is completed a sufficient number of days prior to the due date so that all tasks may be completed on time.

Please amend the paragraph on page 11, beginning at line 3, as follows:

04
At 33, a materials management application manages the required materials for the tasks. At 34, ~~The~~ materials management application determines what materials are available from within the RBOC and also determines what materials need to be ordered from outside vendors. The materials management application knows the time it takes to receive the material (shipping interval) once it is ordered and places the order so that the materials are available at the time that they are needed. The major materials are maintained by serial

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number and all materials are tracked when they are ordered, assigned to a job, and used for a job. The material needs are sent to an order master system 38 which determines whether orders must be placed from within the RBOC or to an outside vendor. The requisition entry and general inventory system (REGIS) 35 and computer assisted purchasing requisition and inventory (CAPRI) system 37 provide interfaces for ordering the materials from either the outside vendor or internally. The asset management system 36 provides an interface between OSPCM and the accounting system for the RBOC.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 11, at line 15, as follows:

CB

The OSPCM process then splits into a first path for contractors and a second path for internal jobs. With regard to the contractor path, a billing and reporting application 40 handles an interface with the contractor. At 41, the work order is provided to the contractor and the contractor acknowledges acceptance of the order. At 42, the work order is scheduled to meet the RBOC's work schedule and at 43, after the work was performed, the contractor accesses the OSPCM to indicate that the work has been completed. The OSPCM at 48 determines whether the completed work matches the design in the system. If it does, the OSPCM system verifies the invoice at 49 and sends the invoice to a voucher system 51 which handles the actual paying of the contractor at 52. If the work does not match the design, then at 50 the contractor's report is sent for approval, such as to a supervisor. The supervisor can approve the invoice, make modifications, or make comments to the report at 50. The billing and reporting therefore ensures that only work orders that were requested and that have been completed are sent for payment. The billing and reporting application eliminates the need for any paper invoices to be sent from the contractor to the RBOC and the need for these paper invoices to be sent between the supervisor and other people within the RBOC.

Please amend the paragraph on page 12, beginning at line 8, as follows:

CB

An inspections application at 44 uses a random sampling process to schedule inspections of completed work tasks, as shown at 45. A primary purpose of the inspections application is to provide a mechanism for monitoring the contractors to ensure that the work that they indicated as being completed is actually completed as designed and the billing also is

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accurate. The results of the inspections are posted at 47 and material and labor reports are generated at 46.

Please amend the paragraph on page 12, beginning at line 14, as follows:

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If the work is to be performed by the RBOC, then the work is scheduled at 55. The scheduling and review of the work is performed by the scheduling application at 54. If necessary, at 53 the job entry other application invokes a buried service wires (BSW) application 57 which provides an interface to another contractor via the construction administration system gateway (CAS/GATEWAY) 58 and loop management operation system (LMOS) 59, which are dispatch systems for installation personnel.

Please amend paragraph beginning on page 12, line 19, as follows:

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A work station application at 61 provides an interface through which employees may enter their time and for entering tasks that they have completed. The work station application is used in reporting work and noting added, changed, or deleted tasks at 62. This information at 63 is provided to the payroll system MTR at 64.

Please amend paragraph on page 15 as follows:

CG
With reference to Figure 2A, the bid and award application will be described in more detail. At 100, the regional contracts application provides a contract template at 101. At 102, a bid package is assembled using CWI usage tables 103 and contractor information 104 contained within databases. Assembling the bid package entails editing documents at 105, assembling documents at 106, preparing CWI worksheets at 107 and selecting prospective bidders at 108. The bid package is built at 109, encrypted to a disk at 110, and placed on a diskette at 111. The bid package is also printed at 114, the bid status is updated at 112, and the bidders are updated in a database at 113. The contractor at 115 receives the bid package, either through the diskette or through the printed package. The contractor at 116 un-encrypts the disk and inputs CWI prices at 117 and signs a cover letter for the bid at 118. With reference to Figure 2B, the bid information is prepared at 120 and is encrypted to the bid disk at 122. At 121, the bid disk is sent back to the RBOC which un-encrypts the disk at 123 and compares the

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various bids at 124. The bid comparison entails reviewing contractor bid CWI price worksheets at 125, review contractor authorization pages at 126, and review any articles or exhibits to the bids at 127. At 128, decisions are made as to whether to recommend a particular bid, award the bid, or refuse a particular bid. The bid status is updated at 129 and the updated information is stored in a database at 130. If a bid is awarded, as determined at 131, then the awarded bid information is saved to a database at 132 and is available to the other OSPCM applications at 133. At 134, the contractors that did not receive the award are notified by the OSPCM system.

Please amend paragraph beginning on page 16, line 12, as follows:

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A process performed by the job entry application called contract move will now be described with reference to Figure 3. At 150, the job entry application reviews the contract details and at 151 determines whether there has been a change, addition, or deletion of a CWI. If there has been, then at 152 the job entry application performs the necessary add, change, or deletion of the CWI. If not, then at 153 the job entry application determines whether jobs need to be moved to a contractor and, if so, moves the job at 155. Moving the job by the job entry application entails moving the jobs at 156, assigning sub-steps to the new contract at 157, and assigning associated CWIs at 158. If jobs do not need to be moved to the contract, and if sub-steps need to be moved to the contract at 154, then the job entry application moves the sub-steps at 159. The job entry application assigns sub-steps to the new contract at 160 and assigns associated CWIs at 161.

Please amend paragraph beginning on page 21, line 14, as follows:

CA
Exemplary processes performed by the materials management application will now be described with reference to Figures 5A to 5F. At 200, the materials management application determines the requirements needed for a job. At 201, the materials management application selects the requirements for an order and generates the order for the job at 202. The order is generated after considering aggregation, custom features, group order requirements, and shipping to alternate addresses at 203. The order is sent to the order master process at 204 and the order master at 205 performs the order. At 206, the materials management application

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checks to see whether the order was successful and, if it is, receives a "Q" number at 207. If the order was not successful, then at 208 the materials management application views and fixes the order master errors and generates the order at 202.

Please amend paragraph beginning on page 26, line 17, as follows:

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At 309, the inspections are performed to ensure that the work that has been indicated as being completed was actually performed. If the inspection records were downloaded, then at 311 the inspector enters the inspection results and uploads the results to the inspection application. If the inspection records were printed, then at 312 the inspection results are entered on the records and provided to personnel for entry into the inspection application. The inspection is based on bid and award equality and billing fee amounts as indicated at 310. A determination is made at 313 as to whether the job passed or failed the inspection and records are updated appropriately.
